**Group members: Amreen, Erik, Winnie**

**Indigenous group:** Bushmen- San Sho Basarwa Kung Khwe

**Date: May 09, 2009**

**Modern Day Connections**

**Cultural misconceptions are part of our past and present**

**Our past affects our present and our future**

*Our purpose today is to see if what happened in The Rabbit-Proof Fence and the plight of the Aboriginal People of Australia today is different from other indigenous groups of the world.*

**Discussion: What does it mean to be indigenous?**

The term **indigenous peoples** can be used to describe *any* ethnic group of people who inhabit a geographic region with which they have the earliest known historical connection, alongside more recent immigrants who have populated the region and may be greater in number (“Peoples of the world” by National Geographic Society).

**Think/Pair/Share**

Do you think that prejudice and discrimination against indigenous groups only happened in Australia? What are some other examples you can think of?

No, not only Australia but also in other places like Mexico, Africa, Peru, Brazil, and South America etc. have many indigenous people in their country. Mexico has more than 12 million indigenous people in the country and they all speak their own indigenous language and are granted rights like being able to preserve and enrich their languages and cultures.

Does this discrimination still persist today?

Yes, like the indigenous people of Sudan, the Dinkas and Nuers are still suffering from being subjugated, brutalized and dispossessed from their land. This is really unfair for them.

**Discussion: Plight of indigenous in the world today.**

*Certain indigenous societies survive even though they may no longer inhabit their "traditional" lands because of migration, relocation, forced resettlement or having been taken over by other cultural groups. The transformation (change) of the culture of indigenous groups is ongoing, and includes permanent loss of language, loss of lands, encroachment on traditional territories, and disruption in traditional lifestyles due to contamination and pollution of waters and lands.*

**TASK**

In groups of 3, choose one of the indigenous groups and research the following information.

You will then add it to **the Indigenous Peoples** page of the culture unit wiki.

Once this is gathered, we will revisit it next week to see if your theories hold up with the use of more data.

* **What happened to the indigenous people in your case study? (Find three outcomes of the impact with non-indigenous people of the country)**

The Bushmen were traditionally hunter-gatherers but then switched to farming on their own. The indigenous people were having land conflict with the Botswana government. The government was aiming to move the Bushmen out of their ancestral land on the Central Kalahari Game Reserve into newly created settlements. The reason why the government did this was to clear the whole land and make it a tourist trade and diamond mining. On December 13th, 2006, the Bushmen won a historic ruling in their long-running court case against the government. Overtime, many of the Bushmen settled back to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. However, only limited amounts of people were allowed back on the land.

* **What percent of the population are they of the country they reside in?**

The total population is 90,000, too small to count as a percent of Africa.

* **What rights do they have today?**

They don’t have any specific rights, but most villagers can now move back to their settlement before.

* **What are their statistics of poverty, education, mortality, crime rates? How do these compare against the majority culture of the nation they reside within?**

(NONE)

* **Has the country done anything to make amends and what was done?**

In April 2008, the United Nations Human Rights Council criticized Botswana’s government for not allowing certain Bushmen to return, but nothing really changed yet.

* **Reflection: How does the research you found connect with our Enduring Understandings**
  + **Cultural misconceptions are part of our past and present:**

In the past, many misconceptions were made, which started much discrimination and created biased views and opinions. Even though these were made in the past, right now, the Bushmen are still being treated unfairly by not letting certain population back into the settlement.

* + **Our past affects our present and our future: (NONE)**